

An aerial photograph showing a wide river winding through a dense, vibrant green forest. The river's surface is dark blue with some white foam from rapids. The forest is composed of various types of trees, including tall evergreens and shorter deciduous trees. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

# Protecting Tribal land for future generations

*Carbon projects are mitigating the impact of climate change*

# Tribal Youth GIS Project is building future professionals

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping is a powerful tool for professional land management in tribal communities. It's also a great way to teach students about technology, problem solving and research skills. ILTF's Tribal Youth GIS Project is bringing technical knowledge and hands-on training to Native communities. It's an initiative that is creating career opportunities for young people and building a pipeline of skilled GIS professionals.



Students who know how to use geospatial thinking are primed for a number of different careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), but the need for skilled GIS practitioners is particularly significant in Tribal communities. ILTF is working with community partners and Tribal colleges to develop, fund and deliver training in the latest GIS tools and techniques, an effort that will help individuals and communities prepare for a brighter future in Indian Country.

## Meet ILTF's Board of Directors



**Amanda Montoya** is from Taos Pueblo in New Mexico. Since 2018, she has served as Executive Director of the Chamiza Foundation in Santa Fe, a private family foundation dedicated to providing support to New Mexico's Pueblo Indian Tribes to help ensure the sustainability of Pueblo culture. Montoya is also a consultant for tribes and tribal entities on community planning, mapping and engagement, and formerly served as Community Development Planner for the Taos Pueblo. She earned her undergraduate degree at New Mexico State University, a Master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico, and a PhD in Justice Studies from Arizona State University. Amanda joined the ILTF Board to support the mission of returning Indian lands to Indian hands while supporting economic development in Tribal communities.

***“Land is so important to Native American people because we are deeply connected to the land and all that it provides...Our relationship with land is reciprocal – the land takes care of us, and we have to take care of the land.”***



## Tribes are protecting their land for future generations

Climate change is real, and Tribal Nations are taking major steps to mitigate the short- and long-term effects. What if tribes could protect their land and preserve important natural resources for future generations while achieving financial prosperity today? The Tribal Land Conservation Initiative enables tribal nations to do just that. A program of the National Indian Carbon Coalition (NICC), this initiative helps tribes implement sustainable management practices, develop carbon projects and partner with socially responsible organizations to achieve financial security for the tribe.

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (Minnesota) is developing a forest-based carbon sequestration project under this initiative. It is being implemented using the American Carbon Registry's Improved Forest Management Methodology, which quantifies greenhouse gas emission reductions that exceed current forest management practices. The project covers 9,197 acres of tribal forest land that will sequester more than 77 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>) per acre. The land will be dedicated to carbon sequestration for 40 years during which time the Band is expected to earn approximately \$4 million.

For more information, visit [www.indiancarbon.org](http://www.indiancarbon.org).

*The Tribal Land Conservation Initiative is enabling Tribal nations to protect their land for tomorrow while profiting today.*